

## Report from Alumni Council

By Gerry Bell

Gentlemen: The December 2011 Alumni Council meeting has come and gone, and herewith is my report. Full disclosure: I wasn't able to attend because of a scheduling conflict (we were conducting sacrifices to the snow gods at Sunday River, to no good effect ...), so this is gleaned from the session minutes and from some conversations with a few people who did attend.

You can read the full details and see the original sources of my blatant plagiarism (although I prefer to call what I've done "ruthless editing") if you go to the Dartmouth website and click on "alumni council" and then "minutes of past sessions."

The highlight of the meeting was the Council Nominating Committee's recommendation and introduction of Nate Fick '99, Rick Kimball '78, and Ben Wilson '73 to run for the three open alumni-nominated positions on the College Board of Trustees. All three men addressed the full Council, participated in a question-and-answer session, and were unanimously endorsed by the councilors present to run for the trustee vacancies.

I have read their resumes (both achievement in the wide, wide world and service to Dartmouth) and believe all three gentlemen to be outstanding candidates who would bring a broad spectrum of talents to the Board of Trustees. So far, most everyone seems to agree: at this writing, no petition candidates in opposition have been put forth. Nevertheless, I encourage all of you to participate in the trustee voting this spring; it is important that we as alums value the opportunity to nominate trustees, and that we take the responsibility seriously.

In other sessions (and you can read about all these in the detailed minutes on the Dartmouth website), the Council heard:

- Provost Carol Folt provide an update on the College's strategic planning process, launched in anticipation of Dartmouth's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019. There is a working strategic planning website to view and share ideas; your feedback can be submitted online at:

<http://strategic.planning.dartmouth.edu>

- A panel entitled “Diversity at Dartmouth,” which described the work of the Office of Institutional Diversity and Equity and elaborated on its mission to promote access, respect, and community for all.
- Cecilia Gaposchkin, assistant dean of the faculty, discuss the pre-major advising program, which aims to facilitate a productive advising relationship between faculty and first and second-year students who have not yet declared a major. (Good idea – I could have used this; I’ll bet a number of us could have!)
- President Jim Yong Kim provided an update on the Learning Collaborative on High-Risk Drinking, a 32 college/university (last time I counted) consortium that Dartmouth was instrumental in founding and is now a/the lead player.
- Al Mulley ’70, director of the Dartmouth Center for Health Care Delivery Science, provide a summary of the center’s first year. The fundamental issue being addressed is that high-cost health care doesn’t necessarily lead to better care. To that end, Dartmouth is the convener and coordinating center for the High Value Health Care Collaborative, which includes Cleveland Clinic, Mayo Clinic, Intermountain Health, and Denver Health, and which is expanding to 15 top U.S. hospital systems covering 50 million people. In the spirit of “better to light one candle than curse the darkness”, that’s a lot of candles. More power – and success – to them.
- Martha Beattie ’76 present an update called “Alumni Relations: The Year Ahead.” Lots of material here, but the linchpin is that she gets it: if the College wants alums to engage meaningfully with the College, the College needs to provide something meaningful in return. Martha stressed that there needs to be even more alumni engaged with the College, and that Alumni Relations is taking a hard look at what needs to be done to invigorate outreach to all alumni. (Guys, I welcome your ideas on this subject, and will be very happy to pass them along.)

- Harry Sheehy, Director of Athletics and one of my personal favorites at Dartmouth, summarized the new Peak Performance initiative: “Fostering Physical, Intellectual, and Personal Growth in the Dartmouth Student-Athlete.” Some great ideas; be sure to read why chocolate milk is good for you.

That’s it, fellas. Thanks for reading. As always, I await your comments and ideas on all things Dartmouth, particularly in the areas where I have some level of influence: the Honorary Degrees Committee and the Academic Affairs Committee.